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"Gen. McClellan was not taken by surprise in an attack on his right wing. He foresaw it, and had prepared for it. He knew that it was the weaker part of his line, and that as it was the only cover for his communications it offered very strong temptations for an attack. His army was not large enough to cover the whole of his long line. He called over and over again for reinforcements to enable him to do so, but he could not get them. The Government had none to spare. While the rebels can concentrate their forces upon a single point we are under the fatal necessity of covering a dozen. Jackson was ravaging the Valley of the Shenandoah, and menacing Maryland and the Capital. Ewell had joined him with all his force. The Government naturally hesitated about incurring a danger which came close home to it by sending away its troops to fight against one which seemed remote and doubtful. The strength of the rebels at Richmond, moreover, was studiously underrated. Predictions were freely uttered that it would vanish when approached—that their numbers would prove to be less than those of McClellan's army, and that he could very well take care of himself. All these things